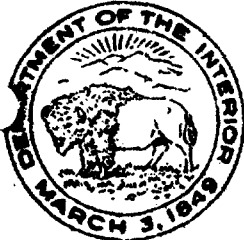


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release AUGUST 30, 1955

DATES ANNOUNCED FOR WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS

Hunting dates for the shooting of migratory waterfowl during the 1955-56 season, as selected by the State game departments, were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay.

Within a framework of October 1, 1955, to January 15, 1956, as recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service on August 12, the States were permitted to choose the specific dates most desirable to them, based on the number of days allotted to each flyway.

Although split seasons were again offered as options to the States, with the same 10 percent penalty in effect as last year, only California elected to break their season into two parts.

In the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways, all States will have a season of 70 consecutive days. Central Flyway States will have a straight 75-day season. In the Pacific Flyway, all States except California selected an 80-day straight season.

The Federal regulations issued today include the season dates and bag and possession limits for wild ducks, geese, coots, brant, and jacksnipe by flyways, as well as the seasons for hunting rails and gallinules in Alabama, Michigan, New Mexico, and Wisconsin, and the seasons for woodcock and mourning doves in Alabama. These latter are:

For rails and gallinules, the season will extend from November 7 to January 5 in Alabama; from October 1 to November 29 in Michigan and Wisconsin; and from November 2 to December 31 in New Mexico.

Woodcock may be hunted from December 12 to January 20 in Alabama.

For mourning doves, Alabama will have full-day seasons from October 1 to October 18 and from December 16 to January 1.

In Utah the season on rails and gallinules will be closed this year.

For quick reference, the open seasons and the bag and possession limits prescribed by the amended regulations are presented in tabular form in the attached schedules.

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(5) Atlantic Flyway States

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL, COOTS, AND WILSON'S SNIPE

	: Ducks	: Geese (except snow geese)	: Coots	: Brant	: Wilson's snipe (jacksnipe)
Daily bag limits	1/ 4	2	10	6	8
Possession limits	1/ 8	4	10	6	8
Seasons in:					
Connecticut 2/		Oct. 22-Dec. 30			No open season
Delaware		Nov. 4 -Jan. 12			Nov. 4 -Nov. 18
District of Columbia		No open season			No open season
Florida		Nov. 7 -Jan. 15			Dec. 24-Jan. 7
Georgia		Nov. 7 -Jan. 15			Dec. 1 -Dec. 15
Maine 2/		Oct. 7 -Dec. 15			Oct. 8 -Oct. 22
Maryland		Nov. 7 -Jan. 15			Nov. 15-Nov. 29
Massachusetts 2/		Oct. 21-Dec. 29			Oct. 20-Nov. 3
New Hampshire 2/		Oct. 7 -Dec. 15			Oct. 1 -Oct. 15
New Jersey		Oct. 29-Jan. 6			Oct. 29-Nov. 12
New York 2/		SEE FOOTNOTE 3/			SEE FOOTNOTE 4/
North Carolina		Nov. 7 -Jan. 14			Nov. 24-Dec. 8
Pennsylvania		SEE FOOTNOTE 5/			Oct. 1 -Oct. 15
Rhode Island 2/		Nov. 7 -Jan. 15			Nov. 1 -Nov. 15
South Carolina		Nov. 7 -Jan. 15			Dec. 31-Jan. 14
Vermont		Oct. 5 -Dec. 13			No open season
Virginia		Nov. 7 -Jan. 15			Nov. 21-Dec. 5
West Virginia		Oct. 29-Jan. 6			Oct. 15-Oct. 29
Puerto Rico		Dec. 15-Feb. 12			No open season

- 1/ Wood ducks and mergansers: Daily bag limit may include one wood duck, possession limit 2. Daily bag and possession limits may include one hooded merganser only. American and red-breasted mergansers are to be included in the daily bag and possession limits on other ducks.
- 2/ For seasons and bag limits on scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks in the States indicated, see footnote 1 to subparagraph (1) Atlantic Flyway States (rails, gallinules and woodcock) of § 6.4 (e), as the same appears in 20 F. R. 6098 (August 20, 1955).
- 3/ New York: Waterfowl and coots, Oct. 15-Dec. 23: Provided, That on Long Island the season shall be Oct. 29-Jan. 6.
- 4/ New York: Wilson's snipe (jacksnipe), Oct. 15-Oct. 29: Provided, That on Long Island the season shall be Oct. 29-Nov. 12.
- 5/ Pennsylvania: Waterfowl and coots, Oct. 10-Dec. 17 except in the counties of Bucks, Philadelphia, and Delaware; and the Delaware River bordering on such counties, where the season shall be Oct. 29-Jan. 6.

(6) Mississippi Flyway States

1/

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL, COOTS, AND WILSON'S SNIPE

	: Ducks :	Geese :	Coots :	Wilson's snipe (jacksnipe)
Daily bag limits . . .	:2/ 4	:3/ 5	: 10	: 8
Possession limits . . .	:2/ 8	:3/ 5	: 10	: 8
Seasons in:				
Alabama	: Nov. 7 -Jan. 15			: Jan. 1 -Jan. 15
Arkansas	: Nov. 7 -Jan. 15			: Dec. 1 -Dec. 15
Illinois	: Oct. 15-Dec. 23			: Oct. 25-Nov. 8
Indiana	: Oct. 22-Dec. 30			: Oct. 15-Oct. 29
Iowa	: Oct. 8 -Dec. 16			: Oct. 8 -Oct. 22
Kentucky	: Nov. 7 -Jan. 15			: Nov. 19-Dec. 3
Louisiana	: SEE FOOTNOTE 4/			: Jan. 1 -Jan. 15
Michigan	: Oct. 1 -Dec. 9			: Oct. 1 -Oct. 15
Minnesota	: Oct. 8 -Dec. 16			: Oct. 8 -Oct. 22
Mississippi	: SEE FOOTNOTE 5/			: Dec. 27-Jan. 10
Missouri	: Oct. 28-Jan. 5			: Oct. 28-Nov. 11
Ohio	: SEE FOOTNOTE 6/			: Oct. 18-Nov. 1
Tennessee	: Nov. 7 -Jan. 15			: Nov. 24-Dec. 8
Wisconsin	: Oct. 1 -Dec. 9			: Oct. 1 -Oct. 15

- 1/ Except as provided in Footnote 6/, the shooting hours for waterfowl and coots in these States are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before sunset and for Wilson's snipe (jacksnipe) one half-hour before sunrise to sunset.
- 2/ Wood ducks and mergansers: Daily bag and possession limits may include one wood duck and one hooded merganser. American and red-breasted mergansers are to be included in the daily bag and possession limits on other ducks.
- 3/ Geese: Such limit may not include more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies; (b) 2 white-fronted geese; or (c) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose.
- 4/ Louisiana: Waterfowl and coots, Nov. 5-Jan. 13: Provided, That for lands and waters of the State of Louisiana lying easterly of the center line of the main navigable channel of the Mississippi River between the northerly boundary of Louisiana and latitude 31° N., the season shall be Nov. 7-Jan. 15.
- 5/ Mississippi: Waterfowl and coots, Nov. 7-Jan. 15: Provided, That for lands and waters of the State of Mississippi lying westerly of the center line of the main navigable channel of the Mississippi River from the northerly boundary of Louisiana to latitude 31° N., the season shall be Nov. 5-Jan. 13.
- 6/ Ohio: Waterfowl and coots, Oct. 18-Dec. 26: Provided, That for Pymatuning Reservoir in Ashtabula County, and one-fourth mile distant in any direction from said reservoir, the season shall be Oct. 10-Dec. 17, and the shooting hours for the area described shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

(7) Central Flyway States

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL, COOTS, AND WILSON'S SNIPE

	: Ducks	: Coots	: Geese (ex- cept Ross's geese)	: Wilson's snipe (jacksnipe)
Daily bag limits	1/ 5	10	2/ 5	8
Possession limits . . .	1/ 10	10	2/ 5	8
Seasons in:				
Colorado	Oct. 25-Jan. 7		Nov. 1-Dec. 30	Nov. 1-Nov. 15
Kansas	Oct. 9 -Dec. 22		Oct. 9-Dec. 7	Oct. 9-Oct. 23
Montana	Oct. 8 -Dec. 21		Oct. 8-Dec. 6	No open season
Nebraska	Oct. 8 -Dec. 21		Oct. 15-Dec. 13	No open season
New Mexico	Nov. 2 -Jan. 15		Nov. 2 -Dec. 31	Nov. 2-Nov. 16
North Dakota	Oct. 1 -Dec. 14		Oct. 1-Nov. 29	Oct. 1-Oct. 15
Oklahoma	Oct. 22-Jan. 4		Oct. 22-Dec. 20	Oct. 22-Nov. 5
South Dakota	Oct. 1 -Dec. 14		Oct. 16-Dec. 14	Oct. 1-Oct. 15
Texas 3/	Nov. 2 -Jan. 15		Nov. 17-Jan. 15	Jan. 1-Jan. 15
Wyoming	Oct. 18-Dec. 31		Nov. 2-Dec. 31	No open season

1/ Wood ducks and mergansers: Daily bag and possession limits may include one wood duck and one hooded merganser. American and red-breasted mergansers are to be included in the daily bag and possession limits on other ducks.

2/ Geese: Such limit may not include more than (a) 2 Canada geese or its subspecies; (b) 2 white-fronted geese; or (c) 1 Canada goose or its subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose. No open season on snow geese in Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison counties in Montana, or in Lincoln and Teton counties, Wyoming.

3/ Texas: No open season on black-bellied tree duck.

(8) Pacific Flyway States

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL, COOTS, AND WILSON'S SNIPE

	: Ducks :		: Geese (except Ross's geese) :		: Coots :		: Brant :		: Wilson's snipe (jacksnipe) :	
•Daily bag limits...	1/	6	2/	6	25		3			8
Possession limit...	1/	12	2/	6	25		3			8
Seasons in:										
Arizona	Oct. 28-Jan. 15						No open season		No open season	
California	SEE FOOTNOTES 1/ and 3/						Dec. 6-Feb. 10		Dec. 10-Dec. 24	
Idaho 4/	Oct. 13-Dec. 31						No open season		No open season	
Nevada	SEE FOOTNOTE 5/						No open season		Oct. 15-Oct. 29	
Oregon	Oct. 22-Jan. 9						Dec. 1-Feb. 10		Nov. 27-Dec. 11	
Utah	Oct. 15-Jan. 2						No open season		No open season	
Washington	Oct. 15-Jan. 2						Dec. 1-Feb. 10		Oct. 30-Nov. 13	

- 1/ Except in California, the daily bag limit of 6, possession limit of 12, may be increased to 9 and 15, respectively, provided such limits contain not less than 3 pintails, 3 widgeons or 3 of these species in the aggregate. In California, the daily bag and possession limit is 7, which may be increased to 10, provided such limit contains not less than 3 pintails, 3 widgeons or 3 of these species in the aggregate. Wood ducks and mergansers: Daily bag and possession limits may include one wood duck and one hooded merganser. American and red-breasted mergansers are to be included in the daily bag and possession limits on other ducks.
- 2/ Geese: Not more than 3 of the dark species of geese may be included in the daily bag and possession limit: Provided, That in the counties of Yuma and Mohave, Arizona; the counties of Bear Lake, Caribou, and Bonneville, Idaho; the counties of Yamhill, Polk, Benton, Lane and Linn, Oregon; and in the entire State of Utah, the daily bag and possession limit may not include more than 2 Canada geese: Provided further, That in California Fish and Game District No. 22 (as defined in the California Fish and Game Code) the daily bag and possession limit may not include more than 1 Canada goose.
- 3/ California: Waterfowl (except brant) and coots, Oct. 15-Nov. 18 and Dec. 10-Jan. 15: Provided, That in those portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties, east of U. S. Highway 95 from the Nevada line south of Blythe and east of the paved and graded road extending from Blythe to Ripley, Palo Verde, and Ogilby south to its intersection with U. S. Highway 80; thence east to Yuma, the season shall be Oct. 28-Jan. 15.
- 4/ Idaho: No open season on snow geese in the counties of Clark, Fremont, Madison, and Teton.
- 5/ Nevada: Waterfowl (except brant) and coots, Oct. 15-Jan. 2: Provided, That in that portion of the State lying south and east of a line beginning at a point where Highway 91 intersects the Arizona-Nevada State line; thence following Highway 91 to its intersection with the Virgin River; thence following the north bank of the Virgin River in a southwesterly direction to its intersection with Highway 91; thence following Highway 91 to Las Vegas; thence following Highway 95 to its intersection with the California-Nevada State line, the season shall be Oct. 28-Jan. 15.